

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00303 121413Z
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AMEMBASSY MADRID
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AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
HQS CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0303

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG PINT PO
SUBJECT: AIR FORCE CHIEF SWORN IN

SUMMARY: GENERAL LEMOS FERREIRA WAS SWORN IN JAN 10 AS AIR
FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF. HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE FROM ALL THREE
SERVICES AND EANES'S DEFENSE OF BREVET PROMOTIONS LAID TO
REST, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, WORRIES THAT MORAIS'S RESIGNATION
WOULD AGGRAVATE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
OVER BREVET PROMOTION ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. LEMOS FERREIRA TAKES OFFICE: PRESIDENT RAMALHO EANES SWORE
IN NEW AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL LEMOS FERREIRA JAN 10.
IN A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY CHIEFS OF OTHER SERVICES,
THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OUTGOING AIR FORCE
CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA, LISBON MILITARY REGION
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COMMANDER VASCO LOURENCO, NORTHERN REGION COMMANDER PIRES
VELOSO, AND COMMANDER OF THE COMMANDO REGIMENT JAIME NEVES,
EANES MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:
-- END TO INSTITUTIONAL EGOISM: THE ARMED FORCES HAS TO END
ITS FAITH IN MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. CYCLICAL MILITARY
DICTATORSHIPS HAVE PLAGUED PORTUGAL FOR THE PAST 150 YEARS.
INSTITUTIONAL EGOISM, NOW WEARING A "PROGRESSIVE" LABEL, MUST

BE ELIMINATED.

-- ARMED FORCES REORGANIZATION: THE ARMED FORCES MUST DEFINE A NEW PHILOSOPHY; ACQUIRE MODERN EQUIPMENT; PROVIDE SPECIAL INSTRUCTION TO THE TROOPS; AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITY TO USE DEFENSE RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

-- DEFENSE OF BREVET PROMOTIONS: ONLY THROUGH THE HIERARCHICAL COMMAND IS IT POSSIBLE TO CONFRONT AN ENEMY SUCCESSFULLY. HOWEVER, UNIQUE AND DEMANDING CONDITIONS CALL FOR BREVET PROMOTIONS. THE PROMOTION OF LEMOS FERREIRA, THE MOST JUNIOR TOP RANKING AIR FORCE GENERAL, IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE NEED TO GO BEYOND SENIORITY.

2. COMMENT: WORRIES THAT MORAIS DA SILVA'S RESIGNATION WOULD AGGRAVATE THE TENSION BETWEEN THE PAF AND THE ARMY OVER THE BREVET PROMOTION ISSUE WERE, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, LAID TO REST BY THE CEREMONY. EANES'S WORDS AND THE PRESENCE OF THE TOP ECHELON OF ALL THREE SERVICES WERE A STRONG CONTRAST TO THE AIR FORCE BOYCOTT OF VASCO LOURENCO'S PROMOTION CEREMONY AS LISBON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER. EANES MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE AIR FORCE POSITION ON BREVET PROMOTIONS WAS NOT BINDING ON THE OTHER SERVICES.

3. DATT CONSIDERS LEMOS TO BE AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER. HE RECEIVED HIS PILOT TRAINING IN THE U.S. AND ATTENDED THE USAF COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE. LEMOS HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL IN HIS DEALING WITH EMBASSY. CARLUCCI

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HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE FROM
TAGS: MORG, PINT, PO, (FERREIRA, LEMOS)
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